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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
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July 7, 2005

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.  
Director and Chief Medical Officer

fr Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director of Public Health and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **WEST NILE VIRUS PREVENTION AND OUTREACH IN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY**

On June 14, 2005, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich directing Public Health to 1) continue the collaborative efforts for surveillance and mosquito control with the Mosquito and Vector Control Districts, and the rural areas such as the Antelope Valley; 2) include educational meetings and outreach activities regarding West Nile Virus to horse owners, animal supply stores, adult day care centers, senior homes and other community groups that can be identified; and 3) report to the Board within 30 days.

Attached is the report on our activities to implement the motion. Public Health's Area Health Office for Service Planning Area 1, Acute Communicable Disease Control, and Environmental Health have collaborated on this effort.

We will provide a further status report in 30 days. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let either of us know.

TLG:JEF:dd

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Office  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

**WEST NILE VIRUS PREVENTION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES  
IN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY  
JULY 7, 2005**

The three Public Health units primarily involved in the prevention of West Nile Virus (WNV) infection are the Service Planning Area (SPA) 1 Health Office, Acute Communicable Disease Control (ACDC), and Environmental Health. Each unit collaborates to assure that preventive measures, including health education, surveillance, and mosquito abatement, are in place for the residents of Antelope Valley. This work also includes close collaboration with the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District.

**Mosquito Surveillance and Control**

Environmental Health Staff have been working with the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District to provide mosquito surveillance and control services for areas not previously covered. Coverage was provided last year through a service contract which ended on June 30, 2005. Environmental Health supported and assisted in the District's effort to support a move toward annexation of a large portion of the uncovered area. This included the Quartz Hills, Rancho Vista and parts of Palmdale area. A ballot measure to approve annexation to the District was put before the community and, if passed, would include these areas as part of the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District. The results for that recent ballot measure will be tabulated on July 12, 2005.

Other unincorporated areas from Quartz Hills west toward Santa Clarita along Highway 14 were not part of the ballot measure. To provide coverage, the Department has requested a new contract proposal from the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District for one additional year.

**Surveillance**

Antelope Valley Hospital has agreed to participate in active surveillance for human WNV illness, similar to a project that ACDC established in the San Gabriel Valley in 2004. Each week, ACDC will be contacting the hospital's Infection Control professional to ascertain that all cases of meningitis and encephalitis have been reported and that WNV testing was obtained if another etiology was not confirmed. ACDC will assist with specimen pick-up for testing by the Public Health Laboratory.

## **Health Education and Outreach**

SPA 1 Public Health Nursing has been re-contracting all of the town and city councils to provide an updated version of the Speaker's Bureau WNV prevention program. Four town council presentations have occurred this year, one is scheduled and staff are in communications with seven additional councils. In addition, staff have also contacted all of the local chambers of commerce, senior residential communities, and senior centers, offering to present this program. Three presentations are scheduled at senior or adult day care centers and additional presentations are pending.

We are also enhancing outreach to the ranching and farming community by contacting and distributing WNV prevention education materials through feed and farm supply stores, and working with the real estate community to identify local areas where residents own and board horses. Our Public Health Investigators and Public Health Nurses will conduct this outreach, contacting local homeowners' associations and equestrian/riding clubs to provide educational presentations and offer prevention literature. Environmental Health staff are also distributing WNV literature while conducting routine and complaint inspection activities in the area.